

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# 10 Years Ago A Communist; Today--A Chicken Farmer

## Barbara Hartle Pardoned

BY CHARLES DUNSIRE  
Post-Intelligencer Staff Writer

EVANS, Stevens County, March 16.—Ten years ago Mrs. Barbara Hartle was the highest ranking woman member of the Communist Party in the Pacific Northwest, leading a life of turbulence born of suspicion and hate.

Here on a small, isolated chicken farm, within earshot of the steel blue Columbia River's throaty hum, she now possesses the tranquility and freedom of will that eluded her during her 21 years in the party and the period following her dramatic break with communism in late 1953.

MRS. HARTLE was convicted in Seattle of conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government by force or violence, under the Smith Act, on October 10, 1953. From May 17, 1954, to February 1, 1956, she was imprisoned in the Federal Women's Re-



MRS. HARTLE PACKS EGGS

"It's An Orderly Existence."

(Post-Intelligencer Photo by John Vallenlyne)

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Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
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Mr. Gale	_____
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formatory at Alderson, W. Va.

She disclosed today for the first time publicly that she has received a full and unconditional presidential pardon for her acts against her country.

The graying but still vibrant 54-year-old widow has lived in relative obscurity since returning here to her childhood home, following her release from prison.

"This is quite an agreeable change from being in the CP, I can tell you that," she said. "It's an orderly existence. I can do what I want for the first time in many years. If I don't like a certain kind of chicken I'm raising I can get another kind; I can read what I want to read, I can go fishing. You can't do what you want in the party—they tell you in."

MRS. HARTLE lives with her sister, Teresa Cooke, in a one-story frame house on a bluff above the Columbia River's northern arm. Evans is a speck on Highway 23 with no more than a score of rural residents who breathe clear, fresh air. Across the road rises a craggy, dun colored hill flecked with stands of pine and sagebrush now pale violet. The setting whispers serenity.

Occasionally Mrs. Hartle is called away to testify at a hearing on subversion. The last time was about 1½ years ago in Washington, D.C.

Now and then an FBI agent will drop by for a chat.

"I see the FBI occasionally," she said. "Sometimes they want to check some individual with me or ask me about some activity. But I don't work for the FBI—I never have."

SHE ESTIMATED that she has testified at about a dozen Justice Department actions or House Un-American Activities Committee hearings since her release from prison, giving testimony based on her intimate knowledge of party individuals and tactics.

"I feel this is about the only thing and the best thing I can do to help a government and a way of life I fought for so long," she declared. "It's hard work and exacting, but I'm a witness willingly."

She became accustomed to the abuse of attorneys for the communist party and the heckling of party-fans in the audience long

ago during the desperate days of 1953 and 1954 after renouncing the party with the help and encouragement of The Post-Intelligencer and former reporter Traynor Hansen.

BUT MRS. HARTLE declines to regard herself as a professional anti-communist witness.

"I'm not one of those ex-communists who spend all their time thinking about it," she said. "I don't live with it. Some make a career of it, but I'm just trying to become a citizen leading a normal life."

SHE SHIES away from political activity now and doesn't consider herself a member of either major political party. She does, of course, have certain firm political views, among them is her belief that those who decry the tactics of the Un-American Activities Committee and extreme right-wing groups are misguided.

"I don't suppose you can fight communism with just one approach," she said. "The John Birch Society, and other groups which name themselves, are doing one job. I believe other organizations and individuals are doing very effective work too. The basic thing they are doing is studying into communism—what its techniques and methods are. I think they make a good contribution."

MRS. HARTLE believes that communism is still dangerously attractive to many young intellectuals, as she was when she joined the party in Spokane in 1933. She had graduated a Phi Beta Kappa from Washington State College in 1929.

"As long as young people don't really know what the Communist Party is, they will be attracted by its call to arms for a better world," she said. "We should do a thorough job of teaching about communism to give young people some anti-communist ammunition. That's all I needed. I learned no arguments against Communism in college. I read Karl Marx's 'Das Kapital' with the idea

of refuting it but I couldn't—he won me over."

Four other top communist leaders in Washington State were convicted with Mrs. Hartle in 1953. While she turned her back on the sentence, the others won reversals on appeal.

THE ONLY regret she has, however, is that she didn't make her break sooner.

"I was so thoroughly ingrained with distrust of the FBI and other governmental bodies that I had no idea there was a great humanity about our democratic civilization," she declared. "If I had had the least glimmering of common sense I would have gone straight to the FBI and told them I was through."

The granting of her pardon was one of the last official acts of President Eisenhower, in January, 1961.

THE HARTLE chicken flock numbers 1,500, producing 60 dozen eggs a day at 39 cents wholesale.

"I enjoy the country life, it lets you be an individual," she said. "An individual in the Communist Party loses his identity and ability to think independently. Any desire to do so is considered bourgeois individualism or selfishness."

To Barbara Hartle, the clear air she breathes in Evans smells of freedom.



MRS. BARBARA HARTLE AND PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

"This Is Quite An Agreeable Change . . . I Can Do What I Want"

—(Post-Intelligencer Photo by John Valamynas)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Ex-Red Claims Education Should Fight Communism

American schools should teach "against" communism, a former top U.S. Communist said here Tuesday.

Miss Barbara Hartle, onetime secretary of the northwest district in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, said the course should be truthful but not objective.

"I am not in favor of letting young people decide," she said, adding that at a young age students are not capable of looking at the issue objectively and coming to understanding of what communism is.

Miss Hartle, who will address Evangelist Billy James Hargis' Anti-Communist Leadership School Thursday, had company on the subject among speakers at the school Tuesday.

In a speech Tuesday night, retired Brig. Gen. William P. Campbell of Searcy, Ark., said Americans should "study and obtain an understanding of communism" as well as the American way of life.

## Urges Education

He also urged that children be given an understanding of communism "and how the Reds work to attract youth."

Earlier, Dr. R. P. Oliver of the University of Illinois charged that "courses on contemporary problems usually are sheer, pure, unadulterated communism with a little polish on the surface."

Hargis, who heads the Christian Crusade sponsoring the school, called for the resignation of Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy because he has not prosecuted Communists on grounds they have failed to register as required by law.

"He has not hesitated to prosecute southerners on the question of integration, but he will not prosecute 10,000 known Communists in this country," Hargis said.

preparation for a career as a writer."

After studying Marx, she looked up the Socialist Party in Spokane, Wash., where she was contacted by Communists who were recruiting socialists to prepare material for the party.

She was given literature written by Lenin, Marx, Stalin and

other Communist leaders. Miss Hartle said she was reluctant about joining the party so she was signed up for a front organization called the Friends of the Soviet Union. This was during the drive for the U.S. to recognize the USSR in 1932.

After a year of this activity, See REDS on Page 30.

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Miss Hartle said she believes the ruling requiring Communist party members to register as agents of a foreign power has chased the party underground.

#### Won't Destroy Party

She said the ruling will make it hard for the party to recruit members and to get funds to carry on its work, but, will not destroy it.

"To outlaw the party is to chase it underground, it should be eliminated," she said.

The Communist party, Miss Hartle said, wants very strenuously to be legal and at the same time reserve for itself the right to operate underground illegally.

She said the Communists have been successful in the U.S. in creating an opinion that to oppose communism is, at the same time, an attack on the Constitution, labor unions, and the possibility of having peace in the world.

"They have succeeded in convincing the general public that opposing communism will lead to fascism and dictatorships," she said.

#### Tells of Past

Miss Hartle told how, as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington State University and a college conservative, she moved into the Communist party.

"I got into it to begin with through intellectual curiosity," she said. "I came across a copy of Karl Marx's Das Kapital to get all sides of the picture in

## REDS

Continued from Pg. 1, Sec. 2

the Communists insisted she join the party if she was sincere and not working in the front organization for the FBI or other anti-Communist organizations.

#### Joined Reds in 1933

Miss Hartle joined the party in the winter of 1933-34. She did not sever all ties with the party until the spring of 1954 when she went to the FBI office in Seattle to tell about party activities.

She said the Communists practice "mental enslavement" on their members to make them feel they are deserters if they begin to feel they are no longer in agreement with party programs.

"This is not a political catchword," she said, "but a fact."

Although her actual break with the party was some years away, Miss Hartle began to have doubts at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact during the early stages of World War II, she said.

The party had always criticized the U.S. government, but during this period its anti-American work picked up heavily blaming the U.S. and Great Britain for the pact with Russia, thus forcing the Soviets into a "temporary non-aggression pact with Hitler" for time to prepare defenses.

At this time, it began to dawn on her that the party was not interested in raising the standard

of living of the working man in the U.S. (which was low in the pre-war days) but was allied with the USSR.

But this was healed by the German invasion of Russia and did not pick up again until the Korean war broke out. "This sudden and ferocious attack on U.S. soldiers (branding the U.S. the aggressor in Korea and saying American soldiers would become beasts like the Nazis) and the charges of germ warfare, spelled the end for many Americans in the Communist party," she said. ?

"It was one thing to be a protestant, but when it came to being a traitor I got shaky," Miss Hartle said.

This anti-American form taken by the party and the subsequent prosecution of party members took a heavy toll in party membership and funds, Miss Hartle said.

She was arrested in 1952 for violation of the Smith Act in advocating the violent overthrow of the American government, and it was at this time she decided to quit the party.

She later abandoned an appeal and entered prison at Alderson, W. Va., to serve the minimum 20 months on a 5-year sentence. Before entering prison, she testified before congressional hearings and again after she was released.

Several threats have been made on her life by the party, she said, but no serious attempt has been made to actually kill her.

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Mr. Ladd	_____
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Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Laughlin	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____



**LEAVING JAIL:** Mrs. Barbara Hartle, arrested as the state's top woman Communist, walked alone as she left Multnomah County jail. She was returned to Seattle with Henry Huff and Karley Larsen Friday. They are charged with violations of the Smith Act in advocating the overthrow of the United States government. Mrs. Hartle and Larsen are being held in the county jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail each. Bail on Huff was set at \$40,000.

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**CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION**—Mrs. Barbara Hartle, arrested in Federal Bureau of Investigation crack-down on alleged Communists, is shown in a 1943 picture, her arm filled with books donated by the Communist Party to the armed forces.

**Barbara Hartle**

Barbara Hartle, 44, of Eugene, Ore., became prominent in Communist affairs in the Seattle area in 1942.

Also known as Barbara Hartle Bourne and Mrs. James Kenneth Bourne, she was born Barbara Hofmeister at Godfrey, Wash., and attended high school at Grants Pass, Ore.

She graduated from Washington State College in 1929, and has been a member of the Communist Party for 15 years.

In 1950 she was both youth director and a member of the Negro commission for the Party's 12th District.

She also has been secretary, educational director and a member of the board for the 12th District.

Currently employed as a cook and waitress in a Eugene restaurant, she was once a candidate for a position on the Seattle School Board.

*Barbara Hartle  
 Pushing  
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**HELD AS RED:** This is a recent photograph of Barbara Hartle, one of seven persons arrested today as leaders of the Communist Party in this state. The arrests were part of a national roundup by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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**Mrs. Hartle Called Top Woman**  
Barbara Hartle, 44, was described by the F. B. I. as the top woman functionary of the Communist Party in Washington. She was the first of the Communist leaders here to drop from sight in 1951.

Mrs. Hartle was working as a cook and waitress in a Eugene, Ore., restaurant when F. B. I. agents arrested her this morning.

Mrs. Hartle was born Barbara Hofmeister in Godfrey, Stevens County, and attended high school in Grants Pass, Ore. She was graduated from Washington State College with a B. A. degree in English.

**School Board Post Sought**

Besides holding executive offices in the King County Communist organization, Mrs. Hartle was the party's youth director for the state and a member of its Negro commission, the F. B. I. said. During the Second World War she was unsuccessful candidate for the Seattle School Board.

The F. B. I. said she also was known as Barbara Hartle Bourne, Mrs. James Kenneth Bourne, Mrs. John Hartle, Margaret Johnson and Gladys Hartle. Paul Miller Bowen, 30, a Negro, the youngest and least known of the seven.

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